



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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11 APRIL 1966

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1. South Vietnam

The pause in antigovernment demonstrations lasted through the day, but there are reports of activity planned for tomorrow in Hué and Saigon.

The newly installed commander in the northern provinces, General Dinh, professes optimism that he can reassert control over disaffected military units and re-establish government authority in Hué and Da Nang. As his contribution to easing the tension, he is removing the two remaining marine battalions from Da Nang. It is not yet clear what if anything opposition elements will contribute, although they are toning down their anti-American statements.

The government still intends to convene a national political conference in Saigon tomorrow. As of now, it has no clear idea how many of the 150-170 invitees will show up. The radical Tri Quang crowd is encouraging a boycott.

Tam Chau, the relatively moderate but ineffective Buddhist leader, is reportedly stepping aside. Tam admits that he has lost control and that "extremists" are now calling the shots.

General Khang continues to tell us of a group of officers who think stronger measures should be taken against the Buddhists and talk in terms of a "house-cleaning." Khang, as commander of troops in the Saigon area, is of course in a key spot.

2. Indonesia

A country-wide harassment of ethnic Chinese is being condoned and sometimes covertly supported by the military, apparently as a way of getting at Peking.

The Chinese, long envied and hated for their virtual economic stranglehold over large portions of the population, are having their schools, shops, and associations penalized or confiscated. If continued, this tactic is almost sure to produce another wave of serious anti-Chinese rioting, and rob the country of people who could be of help in reconstructing the economy.

Meanwhile, the new rulers must spend much time and energy in lengthy meetings with Sukarno, before doing what they have already decided to do.

Last week, for instance, the foreign and economic ministers had to go to the palace and gently but firmly tell Sukarno there was absolutely no money for one of his chief dreams--an "emerging nations" conference in Djakarta--and that construction would end on the partly completed buildings. They left the president profoundly depressed.

3. Pakistan

Civilian and military officials continue to make noises about accepting "a comprehensive" offer of military assistance from Peking, if the West does not come up with the hardware to relieve what they consider Pakistan's severe shortages.

Although the Chinese have supplied some tanks, and possibly aircraft, we have no evidence they are developing a large assistance program for Pakistan. The Chinese have only a limited capability to maintain a modern military establishment in China, let alone Pakistan.

4. France

The government and the Gaullist party have launched a major propaganda campaign in support of De Gaulle's moves against NATO and US bases.

So far, they have had some success in convincing the public that reduction of ties with the alliance's organization does not mean loss of its protection. De Gaulle has astutely played upon the pride and nationalism of the French as well as their far greater interest in local issues. He answers opposition charges that he has broken with France's allies by pointing out that France has not withdrawn from the alliance.

The opposition will challenge the government when the National Assembly opens its foreign policy debate Wednesday, but the expected censure motion has almost no chance of succeeding.

5. Rhodesia

The UN's approval for London to use force in preventing tankers from reaching Beira may have opened a hornets' nest, since it classifies circumvention of the oil embargo as "a threat to the peace." Some African states may now seize this precedent to press for mandatory sanctions against Portugal and South Africa, who are letting in through other routes enough oil to sustain the Rhodesian economy even if Britain succeeds in keeping tankers out of Beira.

6. Dominican Republic

Bosch, yielding to "pressures," has accepted his party's nomination for the election on 1 June. He appears confident of repeating his 1962 victory.

He will probably still occasionally threaten to withdraw, however, as he did in 1962, both for publicity and as a tactic to extract the most favorable conditions from the provisional government. If elected, he might abdicate in favor of his moderate running mate Antonio Guzman.

There is a growing feeling of concern in Santo Domingo that the anniversary of last year's revolution on 24 April may bring disturbances that could shatter the political peace, although our embassy has no hard information suggesting that either the extreme right or left plans to create serious incidents.

7. Haiti

Although superficially calm over the weekend, Haiti is said to be like a tinderbox.

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